As per Foreign Trade Policy, all imports are subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods.

The Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratory, conducted a study and submitted a report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2002 on "Assessment of Leaching of Phthalates, Metals and Colorants from Plastic Toys". The objective of the study was to survey the types and the quality of plastic toys to which children could be exposed, exent of leaching of phthalate plasticizers, metals and colorants from various type, factors influencing the leaching of phthalate, metals and colorants from plastic toys and effect of toys on health of children through clinical examination using a questionnaire.

The study suggested that natural, non-toxic pigments and dyes be promoted and toys be manufactured using standard procedures to minimize the possible leaching of its ingredients during use.

As regards the safety requirement for toys, the Bureau of Indian Stadards has published the following three standards for safety requirement for toys:—

1. IS 9873 (Part I): 2001/ISO 8124-1:2000 Safety requirements for toys: Part I: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties.
2. IS 9873 (Part 2): 1999/ISO 8124-3:1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 2: Flammability requirements
3. IS 9873 (Part 3): 1999/ISO 8124-3:1997 Safety requirements for toys: Part 3: Migration of certain elements, prescribed maximum acceptable element migration, for Antimony (sb), Arsenic (As), Barium (Ba), Cadmium (Cd), Chromium (Cr), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg) and Selenium (Se) from toy materials.

The aforementioned BIS standards are neither mandatory on domestic manufacturers nor on imports. Ministry of Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises has set up testing facilities for evaluation of toys at Testing Centres at Mumbai and New Delhi.

Shifting of Spices Park from Andhra Pradesh

301. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up Spices Park in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons behind Government's plan to shift it from Andhra Pradesh to some other State when the State is ready to provide land and other infrastructure which the Spices Board required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided, in principle, to set up a spice part at Guntur primarily for Chillies and Turmeric. There is no plan to shift Spices Park from Andhra Pradesh.

Ban on import of prawns by Australia

302. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has announced banning import of prawns from India which hit largely Andhra Pradesh since it is the largest producer of prawns in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a ban;

(c) what is the quantity of seafood exported to Australia from India; and

(d) how MPEDA is planning to help the seafood growers in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the light of this ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise. However, all prawn and prawn product exports to Australia carry a certificate of fitness for human consumption and also certify that it has been cooked in approved premises to a minimum time and temperature standard.

(c) Details are at the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(d) MPEDA is adopting several measures to help promote sustainable Aquaculture in the coastal states including Andhra Pradesh. These include dissemination of better management practices for control of disease, production of SPF brood stock, code of practice for production of disease free seed and farm management, comprehensive health management strategy, labeling to address traceability concerns and submission of periodic Annual Health Reports to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), Network of Aquaculture Centres for Asia and Pacific (NACA) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Statement

Item wise export details to Australia from India

Q: Quantity in Ton, V: Value in Rs. Crore, US$ Million

		April-Sept.2007	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Frozen Shrimp	Q:	783	2270	2452	3479	2167	2358
	V:	30.70	93.02	82.55	122.16	82.94	97.05
	$:	7.57	20.58	18.71	27.25	18.03	20.10
Frozen Fish	Q:	156	1038	284	167	323	517
	V:	1.74	3.48	2.24	1.30	1.05	2.28
	$:	0.42	0.78	0.51	0.29	0.23	0.47
Fr Cuttle Fish	Q:	53	59	91	49	49	18
	V:	1.08	1.08	1.44	0.68	0.70	0.25
	$:	0.26	0.24	0.33	0.15	0.15	0.05
Fr Squid	Q:	1	29	5	42	9	8
	V:	0.01	0.35	0.06	0.37	0.05	0.12
	$:	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.02
Dried Item	Q:	132	785	258	3	3	22
	V:	0.58	3.91	0.93	0.05	0.54	0.29
	$:	0.14	0.87	0.21	0.01	0.11	0.06
Live Items	Q:	0	0	0	0	0	0
	V:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chilled Items	Q:	0	0	11	14	0	0
	V:	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.22	0.00	0.00
	$:	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
Others	Q:	109	251	317	296	432	392
	V:	1.72	3.59	3.39	2.64	3.07	3.35
	$:	0.42	0.80	0.77	0.59	0.67	0.70

		April-Sept. 2007	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Total	Q:	1233	4433	3418	4049	2982	3315
	V:	35.84	105.44	90.84	127.42	88.34	103.34
	$:	8.81	23.34	20.58	28.43	19.20	21.41

Acquisition of Farmers land by State

303. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several State Governments have acquired farmers land and have provided it to private companies for commercial activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to frame any regulation for limiting the acquisition of land by State Government/Industry so that it does not reduce agriculture land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Regulation for mercury consumption

304. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to regulate the consumption of mercury for non-industrial purpose, since India is the second largest consumer of mercury in the world importing 200 tonnes every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Mercury is imported in India for use in industries like Chlor-alkali, dental amalgam, batteries, clinical thermometers, barometers, pesticides & drugs, electrical and electronic appliances etc. Import of Mercury is being done under Open General Licence for various industrial uses. Effluent and emission standards for mercury using industries have been prescribed.

Low Exports of Herbal Medicines

305. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) where it is a fact that our country's share in global exports of herbal medicines is low:

(b) if so, whether Government have analyzed the reaons for this low production of herbal medicines; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to increase production and export of herbal medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) It is a fact that